2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

9 March 2015

Original: English

New York, 27 April-22 May 2015

Nuclear testing

Working paper submitted by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirms that the only way to rid the world of the threat or use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. In that regard, while the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a practical step for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament as well as non-proliferation in all its aspects, it cannot substitute for the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty, in accordance with its long-standing and principled position in favour of the total elimination of all forms of nuclear weapons, supports the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is intended to enforce a comprehensive, irreversible and verifiable ban on all nuclear test explosions and to stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons in order to pave the way towards their total elimination.

3. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty, while underlining the significance of achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, strongly calls for immediate and unconditional cessation of all nuclear weapon tests and the closure of all nuclear weapon test sites. In that regard, the Group is of the firm view that all States parties that have not yet done so should close and dismantle, as soon as feasible and in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner, any remaining sites for nuclear test explosions and their associated infrastructure, and prohibit completely nuclear weapons research and development, and also refrain from conducting nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, or nuclear weapon tests in alternative ways, as well as prohibit the use of new technologies for upgrading existing nuclear weapons systems, which would defeat the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

4. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty recalls and reaffirms once again the commitment of all States parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to ending all nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and thereby constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear

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weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons. In that regard, the Group expresses grave concern regarding the conducting of nuclear weapon tests in alternative ways and the use of new technologies for upgrading existing nuclear weapons systems, as well as the development of new types of nuclear weapons, which are in contravention of the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and would undermine its effectiveness and contradict the commitments undertaken at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences by nuclear-weapon States. Accordingly, the Group strongly calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to put an immediate end to such activities and refrain from any other action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, pending its entry into force.

5. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty stresses that the improvement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons violate the commitments undertaken by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Such actions are incompatible with action 1 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, in which all States Parties committed to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In that regard, the Group calls on the nuclear-weapon States to end plans to modernize their nuclear weapons arsenal, in compliance with their commitments.

6. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all the nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

7. In that context, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty welcomes the signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by 183 States and its ratification by 163 States, including the recent ratification by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, the Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq and Niue.

8. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty expresses its serious concern over the delay in the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Group further believes that the nuclear-weapon States have a special responsibility to ensure the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, not only because they are among the 44 States listed in annex 2 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, but also because, owing to their position, they are expected to lead in ratifying it and making the ban on nuclear tests a reality. It will be possible to determine the success of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty only when it has been signed and ratified, in particular by the five nuclear-weapon States and those which have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and continue to operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities.

9. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty reaffirms that the early ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the nuclear-weapon States would pave the way and encourage the remaining required countries, especially those with unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, to sign and ratify the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The failure of one major nuclear-weapon State to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is undermining this important instrument against nuclear testing.

10. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty recalls the undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States at the time of the negotiation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to ensure that it would halt both vertical and horizontal proliferation, thereby preventing the appearance of new types of nuclear devices, as well as nuclear weapons based on new physical principles. The nuclear-weapon States stated at that time that the only steps to be followed would be to maintain the safety and reliability of the remaining or existing weapons, which would not involve nuclear explosions. In that regard, the Group calls upon those States to strictly refrain from conducting any type of nuclear tests for the modernization, development or further improvement of nuclear weapons. The Group wishes to re-emphasize the principles of the non-proliferation regime, both vertically and horizontally.

11. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty underscores the importance for the five nuclear-weapon States to maintain and observe their commitments to unilateral moratoriums on nuclear weapon tests pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. However, the Group believes that those moratoriums do not substitute for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its entry into force.

12. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty emphasizes that the modernization or development of new types of nuclear weapons is contrary to the assurances given by the five nuclear-weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, namely, that the it would prevent the improvement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons. Pending its entry into force, States should refrain from any actions contrary to its objectives and purpose. In that context, the Group is seriously concerned by the decision of some nuclear-weapon States to modernize their nuclear weapons. It is the view of the Group that such decisions undermine the validity of the commitment to declared moratoriums as well as the commitments under the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, in which the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was envisaged as the first of 13 practical steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

13. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty underlines the need for increased attention to the problems of safety and contamination related to the discontinuation of nuclear operations formerly associated with nuclear weapons programmes, including, where appropriate, the safe resettlement of any displaced human populations and the restoration of economic productivity to affected areas. In that regard, the Group acknowledges the existence of a special responsibility towards the affected people and areas, including those in the former United Nations Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories who have been adversely affected as a result of the nuclear weapon tests conducted in the past.